

Political Parties in America

US Major Political Parties

Federalists-1794-1820

- Alexander Hamilton, favored a stronger and more active central government,
- loose, expansive interpretation of the US Constitution, (necessary and proper clause)
- largely died out in 1816 after a number favored the Hartford Convention.
- Only won one Pres. contest, John Adams, had a substantial effect on the US through John Marshall, in his role as Chief Justice to the US Supreme Court

Democratic Republicans- 1794-present

- Thomas Jefferson, favored a weak central government
- strict construction of the US Constitution (necessary and proper clause)
- Under Andrew Jackson – the party took on a populist theme, also became more associated with a tough military posture.
- Prior to Civil War, Democratic Republicans made major inroads with immigrant groups, especially the Irish immigrants.
- Post Civil War- party was dominant in the South, until the 1970s and 80s Republicans in the South had rarely, if ever, won an election
- Early 20th century became more associated with reform, labor and immigrants
- Democrat party begins to favor a more loose interpretation of the Constitution
- Under FDR, Democrats formed a relationship with African Americans that will continue for many years
- Famous Democrat Presidents
Jefferson, Jackson, Wilson, FDR, Kennedy
- Recent Democrat President
Carter, Clinton, Obama

National Republicans 1828-1830s- Mainly an Anti-Jackson Party, Supported Tariffs alienating South, Viewed as Elitist alienating Anti-Masons

Whig Party- 1830s-1854

- favored a more active role for the Federal Government, including involvement in infrastructure and education (social issues),
- to counter the “tough military posture” of the Democrat Party, the Whigs often chose ex-military leaders such as Winfield Scott as its Presidential Candidate.
- Died out as a result of a split between Southern and Northern Whigs over the issue of slavery.

Republicans- 1854-Present

- Arose out of the ashes of a number of parties, including the free soil party, abolitionist party and later the Whig Party.
- Took on the reform aspects of the Whig Party, actively against the Mormon religion, favorable to ridding the country of slavery, however, did not include that in their 1860 platform, -> didn't want to alienate some voters.
- Late 19th Century became more associated with Business with government remaining less involved in human affairs.
- Early 20th Century Republican party begins to favor a more strict construction of the Constitution
- Prior to WWII tended to be the party that favored an isolationist foreign policy (non-involvement), though McKinley (Spanish-American War) and Theodore Roosevelt were both Republicans
- Until 1970s dominated in the New England States, weak in the South
- held African American Vote until FDR
- 1970s Nixon's silent Majority,
- 1980s aligned with fundamentalist Christian Religion +movement

Famous Republican Presidents

Lincoln, T. Roosevelt, Eisenhower
Recent Republican Presidents
Nixon, Reagan, GHW Bush, GW Bush

Progressive Party- late 19th Century,
-reform oriented party, pushed for income tax, direct election
of senators, women's rights, cleaning up politics (late 19th
century rampant corruption in politics),
-ideas of the Progressive period were taken up primarily by the
Democratic Party, although some Republicans, most notably,
Theodore Roosevelt instituted many of the reforms (Pure Food
and Drug Act is an example)

other Parties in Amer. Politics

Anti Mason- 1820s

Know Nothing- 1850s

Free Soil Party- 1840s

Socialist Party- early 1900s (one socialist member of Congress
today, Sanders-Vt)

Bull Moose Party- 1912

State's Rights Party (Dixiecrats) 1948

American Party 1968

Independent Party- 1980

Reform Party – 1992

Green Party – 1996

Presidential Elections effected by 3rd Party Candidates

1912 Wilson (T. Roosevelt)

1948 Truman (S. Thurmond)

1968 Nixon (G. Wallace)

1980 Reagan (J. Anderson)

1992 Clinton (R. Perot)

2000 Bush (R. Nader and P. Buchanan)

2004 Bush (R. Nader)

Last Election where 3rd Party won any electoral votes

1968 G. Wallace

Modern Day Major Political Parties

Democrats

Republicans

Registered voters Democrats outnumber Republicans nationally, however the difference between the two has narrowed (blip up to Dems in 2006-2008). Fastest Growing Party???---not a party-> Independents!

Geographic Democrats have dominated the Northeast and Far West, Republicans dominate the Rocky Mountain areas, the South and Southwest. Midwest States and especially the Great Lakes States are up for Grabs

Race Democrats dominate amongst most minority groups, especially amongst African-Americans (2000 Gore/2004 Kerry won close to 90% of African American vote) , somewhat amongst Hispanics and other immigrant groups, Republicans dominate amongst white voters.

Gender Since the 1980s a growing gap has developed between the Genders, Males vote disproportionately Republican (55%-45%) and Women vote disproportionately Democrat (55%-45%)

Income Higher incomes tend to be associated with Republican voters

Military Military Personnel tend to vote Republican.

Religion Historically Roman Catholics tended to vote Democrat and Protestants Republicans, in recent years this has somewhat changed, since the 1980s the Republican party has become more associated with issues such as Right to Life, which appeals to many fundamentalist Religious groups and Roman Catholics. Members of the Church of Latter Day

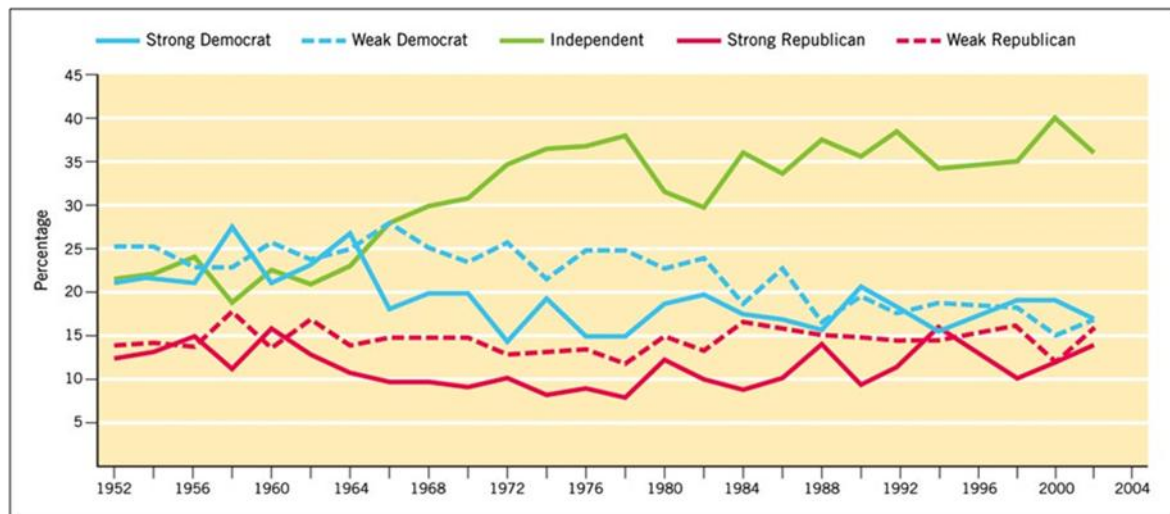
Saints tend to vote Republican, Jewish people tend to vote Democrat

Education People with no college and those with substantial post graduate experience tend to vote Democrat, People with only a Bachelors degree tend to vote Republican,

Occupation Professionals (doctors, lawyers) tend to vote Republican, Union workers tend to vote Democrat

Rural v Suburban v Urban Urban populations tend to vote Democrat, Rural areas tend to vote Republican, Suburban voters show a slight tendency to vote Republican

Figure 9.1: Decline in Party Identification, 1952-2002



National Election Studies, *The NES Guide to Public Opinion and Electoral Behavior, 1952-2000*, table 20.1, and data for 2002 updated by Marc Siegal.

Figure 9.2: Trends in Split-Ticket Voting For President and Congress, 1920-2000

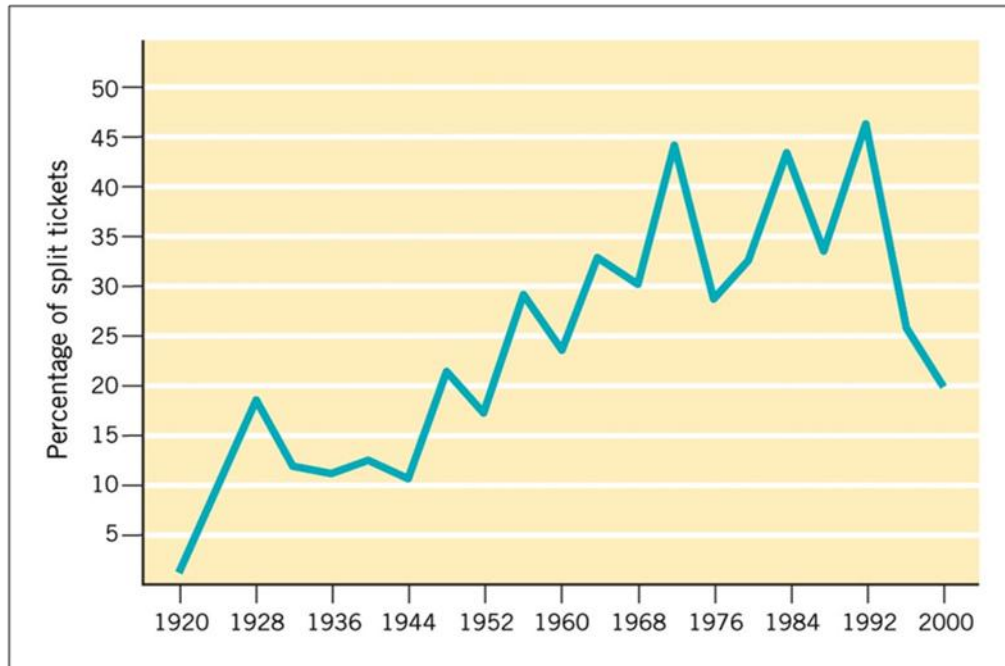


Table 9.5: How Party Delegates and Party Voters Differ in Liberal Ideology

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Liberal Ideology	1984	1988	1992	1996	2000
Democrats					
Delegates	66%	39%	47%	43%	41%
Voters	31	25	28	27	34
Republicans					
Delegates	2	1	1	0	1
Voters	15	12	12	7	8
<p>Sources: For 1984: <i>Los Angeles Times</i> (August 19, 1984); for 1988: <i>New York Times</i>/CBS News poll, in <i>New York Times</i> (August 14, 1988); for 1992: <i>New York Times</i> (July 13 and August 17, 1992) and unpublished CBS News poll, "The 1992 Republican Convention Delegates"; for 1996: <i>New York Times</i> (August 12 and 26, 1996); for 2000, <i>New York Times</i> (August 29, 2004).</p>					